Revamping of National Dairy Development Board

3810. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of improved productivity due to efforts by the New Zealand Dairy Board, dairy farmers are on the top in earnings;

(b) whether it is a fact that a similar board was created in the country which has totally gone astray and instead of working on improved productivity it has diverted its attention to other fields of activities;

(c) whether Government propose to revamp the National Dairy Development Board and have a new Chairman as clearly provided for under the National Dairy Development Board Act; and

(d) whether Government also propose to bring the National Dairy Development Board under the purview of the Controller and Auditor General of India as provided under the Constitution of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Government do not have information about the working of the New Zealand Dairy Board.

(b) National Dairy Development Board is functioning in accordance with the provisions of National Dairy Development Board Act, 1987.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Govt.

Use of Pesticides in Agriculture

3811. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pesticides residues have long lasting toxicity on fruits and vegetables in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in most parts of the world much stress is being laid to reduce the use of pesticides in agriculture; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to reduce the use of pesticides in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Sir, the indiscriminate and excessive use of pesticides does result in toxic residues. However, only those pesticides which have low toxicity and short residual period are recommended for use on fruits and vegetables. Also, recommended 'Waiting period' has to be observed between treatment and harvest.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Integrated Pest Management methods which include environmentally friendly approaches like biological control, resistant varieties, cultural practices and judicious use are promoted for the control of agricultural pests.

Wasteful Expenditure on Agricultural Reseach Laboratories

3812. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General, in recent report, has revealed that there is a lot of Wasteful expenditure on their Agricultural Research laboratories which are engaged in aimless research without relevance to the Indian conditions;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by Government to stop such wasteful expenditure;